Since then a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability.

The refining capacity of the refineries by the year 2011-12 is estimated to be 240.96 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum). The demand of petroleum products for terminal year (2011-12) of 11th Five Year Plan is estimated to be 131.8 MMT.

Higher refining capacity over & above the domestic requirements will boost export earnings from export of petroleum products through value addition, and will enhance energy security of the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Given the country's increasing import dependence for crude oil & steps taken for promoting value addition in refining for making the country an export hub of petroleum products, the timeline of 01.04.2009 for withdrawal of the fiscal incentives will have repercussions on the country's new refineries and the E&P sector besides having a negative impact on the country's energy security efforts.

Oil refineries in the country

3806. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many oil refineries are there in the country;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to curb the activities of any of these refineries in any State; and

(c) the details of planning of Government to increase the exploration of oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) At present, there are 19 refineries operating in the country, out of which 17 are in Public Sector and two in Private Sector.

(b) The refinery sector was delicensed in June, 1998. It is not the Central Government, but Public and Private Sector Enterprises who consider proposals for setting up/expansion of refineries depending on the assessment of its viability.

(c) In order to increase exploration of oil and gas in the country, Government of India approved the New Exploration & Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1997 and it became effective in February, 1999. Six rounds of bids have so far been invited under NELP, in which 162 exploration blocks have been awarded. Under NELP, 59 oil and gas discoveries have already been made in Cambay onland, North East Coast, Cauvery and Krishna-Godavari deepwater areas, for which, development plans by the operators, *viz.*, Cairn, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Niko are in progress. Under seventh round of NELP which was launched on 13th December 2007, Government has offered 57 exploration blocks.

By end of Eleventh Plan period *i.e.* 2012, 80% of Indian sedimentary basin area is likely to be under exploration and by 2015, whole sedimentary basin has been targeted to be under exploration.

IT Park with Cochin Airport

3807. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) proposed to build an IT Park adjoining to the CIAL airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has given its approval for the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has informed that it has drawn a plan for the development of an Aerotroplis (Airport City) on the cityside land available with the airport. IT Park is a component of the proposed Aerotropolis. An area of about 35 acres of land is earmarked for this purpose. The total built up area of the proposed IT Park would be 4 million sq. ft. to be developed in a phased manner.

(c) Government has not yet received a formal proposal from CIAL.

(d) Does not arise.

Laying of Gas Pipelines in the country

3808. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued authorization to Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for laying the Jagadishpur-Haldia gas pipelines and Reliance Gas Transporation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGTIL) for laying Kakinada-Basudebpur-Cuttuck-Howrah pipelines;

(b) if so, whether official gazette notification required under sub section (1) of section (3) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1972 have already been issued in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when such notification would be issued and by which time the laying of pipelines and commissioning job would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Notification would be issued on receiving the detailed proposal from the concerned Company. According to the authorization, the pipelines are to be completed within 36 month from the respective dates of the first notification under Section 3(1) of Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962 for acquisition of Right of User for the pipeline.

Gas Hydrate Deposits

3809. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will embark on massive seismic surveys for locating Gas Hydrate Deposits in sea;